

The Most Important Gifts

Perhaps no passage of scripture is known more than I Corinthians 13 which is known as the “Love Chapter.” It is used in weddings most often. Perhaps no phrase is better known in that text than “Now abide faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.” It is these three that we remember most during the upcoming holidays and we share them between ourselves in various ways. We should always remember that these are graces God gives for our good and there is a real purpose for these gifts God gives.

The great Baptist preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote, “God does not give faith, love, hope, or any grace without meaning to test it. If a man builds a railroad bridge, it is that engines may go over it and prove its carrying power. If he only makes a needle, it must be tested by the work it can do. So when God made you to be strong in the Lord, he meant to try every ounce of your strength. What ever God makes has a purpose, and he will test it to see if it is equal to its design. I do not think that a single grain of faith will be kept out of the fire just as all the golden ore must go into the crucible to be tested.” God certainly grants us these wonderful graces and we sense them as gifts in our soul and share them with family and friends. However, they are often tested. Dr. Spurgeon suggests that we will be tested along with these graces and that these tests will prove our ability to remain strong in the Lord.

It is my prayer that you will remain strong in the Lord and that you will be a source of encouragement to those around you that they also may be strong. This is especially important when the tests of life come and if you have not been tested yet, rest assured, the tests will come. As you share the holidays, remember to share the strength God has given you and think about the fact that these gifts are really the most important. Blessings.